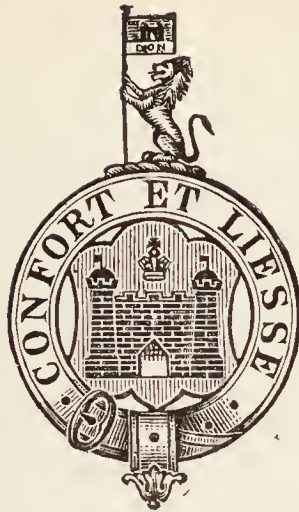


BOROUGH OF



DONCASTER.

DONCASTER

Urban Sanitary Authority.

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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

Year Ending 31st December, 1899.

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Doncaster :

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# Doncaster Urban Sanitary Authority

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1899.

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Population Census 1891	.. ..	25,954.
Estimated Population during 1899	..	30,500.
Part Estimated as Built Upon in Acres	..	1,640.

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*To the Doncaster Sanitary Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE now to present to you my Annual Report for Population.  
1899. I have estimated the population in the borough to the middle of last year as 30,500, the increase is less than the normal rate of the last census would justify me in adding. The population in the separate wards can only be an approximate estimate until the next census gives the actual figures.

Eight Hundred and Nineteen births were registered Births.  
last year—males, 432; females, 387; the birth rate was only 26·8 per 1,000. In England and Wales the birth rate was 29·3. The average number of births registered in Doncaster during the years 1894-8 was 885, and the birth rate during these years averaged 30·7. It would appear as if a large part of the natural increase in the population was going to the suburbs.

The following was the birth rate last year in the separate wards :

Central Ward	...	...	22·8	per 1,000.
East	„	...	20·0	„
North	„	...	32·0	„
South	„	...	30·0	„
St. George's	...	...	33·0	„
West	„	...	23·0	„

#### Deaths.

Five Hundred and Forty-two deaths were registered in Doncaster last year—males, 287 ; females, 255 ; three deaths at the Balby Hospital and five at the lunatic asylums have to be added, but 41 deaths were among people at the workhouse, the Infirmary, and in the town who belonged to different places away from Doncaster, are deducted and the corrected number, 509, is equal to a death rate of 16·7 per 1,000, the average rate for 10 years was 18. Last year the death rate for England and Wales, outside the 100 largest towns, was 17·1 per 1,000.

The death rate in the Central Ward was 18·0 per 1,000.

„	„	East	„	14·0	„
„	„	North	„	20·3	„
„	„	South	„	14·5	„
„	„	St. George's		19·4	„
„	„	West	„	13·2	„

Before these calculations are made the deaths at the Workhouse and the Infirmary of people belonging to Doncaster are distributed to the different wards.

#### Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

Forty-nine deaths were registered from zymotic diseases the average number is 61.

Last year there were 4 deaths from small-pox			
„	„	8	„ measles.
„	„	3	„ enteric fever.
„	„	2	„ puerperal fever.
„	„	2	„ diphtheria and membranous croup.
„	„	28	„ diarrhœa.
„		was 1	„ whooping cough.
„		„ 1	„ scarlet fever.

The death rate from these was 1·6, while the average rate for 10 years is 2·2. It was 1·7 in England and Wales last year. In none of the separate wards was there any great variation from the general rate ; the exceptions are in the North, South, and St. George's Wards, in these the rate was above the average and in each the deaths were mainly caused by diarrhœa. That disease is included in the same group as fever, diphtheria, small-pox, &c., &c., and one half of the deaths in this zymotic list were caused by diarrhœa among infants ; as Diarrhœa. this disease is believed to be influenced by the sanitary arrangements in the neighbourhood of the houses, each one where a death occurred has been visited and the closets, drains, &c., noted ; in 22 of the 27 houses (two deaths occurred in one house) there was a privy and ashpit in the yard, and at five a water closet and box ; at 18 there was a properly trapped gully drain, and at nine there was an iron trap always liable to be untrapped and occasionally broken and these are always untrapped. The hot weather of the summer and autumn no doubt made every nuisance more active, but I think the old ashpits act as one source of nuisance which is very prejudicial to young children, especially during hot weather.



Phthisis.

From phthisis or tubercle of the lungs there were 30 deaths, and from tubercle of other parts of the body 11, these latter were chiefly among young children. The death rate from these 41 was 1·3 per 1,000, that is just the 10 years average rate from cases of phthisis alone.

Diseases of  
the Lungs.

From other diseases of the lungs, bronchitis, pneumonia, &c., there were 56 deaths ; the rate was 1·8 while the 10 years average was 3 per 1,000.

In each of the groups I have noticed, viz : zymotics, phthisis, and ordinary diseases of the lungs, there has been a lessened number of deaths when compared with the average for previous years, and these are just equal to the reduction shown on the death rate from all causes for the year.

Deaths among  
Children.

The deaths among children under one year were in the proportion of 194 out of every 1,000 registered births ; in 1898 they were equal to 205, but the 10 years average is 171, so that for the last two years the deaths among infants have been higher than in the past and this tends to lessen the full effect of the beneficial work of the Committee. In England and Wales in 1899 these deaths were 163 per 1,000 births. I should like to note that these latter calculations are independent of any estimate of the population, for they are a comparison of the births and the deaths registered ; therefore the following particulars in the wards show where the excess was greatest :

In the Central Ward the proportion was				211
„	East	„	„	148
„	South	„	„	200
„	North	„	„	237
„	St. George's	„	„	163
„	West	„	„	157

Forty-one per cent. of all the deaths registered last year were among children under five years of age—that is five per cent. less than in 1898. Among those who occupy houses in the common yards 56 per cent. of the deaths were among such young children in 1899.

Twenty-four deaths were registered on the Coroner's Certificate, 11 were due to some form of accident; 2 were cases of suicide; 11 were caused by disease.

Twenty-two deaths were registered as due to cancer—12 were males, and 10 females.

In 1899 there were 154 cases of infectious disease notified:

	1899.	Average yearly number during 1894-98.		
Small-pox ... ..	11	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	60	...	...	183
Enteric Fever ... ..	28	...	...	25
Puerperal Fever ... ..	2	...	...	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	13	...	...	13
Erysipelas ... ..	40	...	...	43

The chief reduction is in cases of scarlet fever, the number last year was one-third the average.

Among the 60 cases reported there was one death. Scarlet Fever. Fifty-eight per cent. of the cases were treated in Carr House Hospital and all recovered. It was only during the last three months of the year that the disease became prevalent, nearly one-half of the cases occurred then, 13 cases were returned from five houses; during the rest of the year the cases were generally single ones in houses widely separated from each other.

Thirteen cases of diphtheria or membranous croup were notified there were two deaths. Five of the cases were treated in Carr House.

Diphtheria  
and  
Membranous  
Croup.

9 Patients were under 5 years of age.  
 2     ,,     were between 5 and 15 years.  
 2     ,,     were aged 22 years.

These cases were reported in nearly equal numbers from each ward in the town. A second case occurred in three houses; both cases were notified on the same day from one house, in another the second case was reported three days after the first, and in the other the interval between the cases was 14 days. These facts help to show that this disease is infectious and that the patient ought to be separated from others for a time sufficient to allow for his or her complete recovery. Sanitary defects were found at several of the houses and these may have contributed to the disease beginning, but direct infection was not traceable; the patients were found to have attended six different schools.

Enteric or  
Typhoid  
Fever.

The 28 cases of enteric or typhoid fever reported in 1899 were three above the average number; three of the cases died. Sixty per cent. were treated at Carr House, all these recovered. Only four cases were reported until the end of July; in August there were five cases; in September eleven, and seven in October. Of the last 23 cases the history showed that the illness of four was far more likely to have begun away from than in Doncaster; two of these latter were in one house, they had been away together on a holiday and were notified on the same day, and no one else was ill at their home.

4 of the 19 patients were between 10 and 15 years of age  
 4             ,,             ,,     15   ,,   20         ,,  
 7             ,,             ,,     20   ,,   30         ,,  
 2             ,,             ,,     30   ,,   40         ,,  
 2             ,,             ,,     42   ,,   47         ,,



Fifteen were males, 11 engaged in several trades, and four were school boys ; four were females, all adults, engaged about their own homes. The milk supply used at the houses was obtained from 14 different sellers. At 14 houses a privy and ashpit were in the yard, at seven there were water closets. On examining the books it was shown that each of the ashpits had been cleansed out once at least during the three previous months. Sanitary and disinfected pails were supplied to all the houses during the illness when the patient was nursed at his home. In only one case was there a suspicion of the disease having spread to the next house. The cases were distributed in the town as follows :

In the Central Ward 5 cases				
„	North	„	5	„
„	South	„	4	„
„	St. George's		2	„
„	West	„	3	„

Among the 40 cases notified as suffering from *Erysipelas*. erysipelas there was one death ; it is doubtful if many of the cases of very slight appearance were ever intended to be notified by the framers of the Notification Act. Many medical practitioners do not report trifling recurring chronic cases.

In August last a case of small-pox was notified. Small-pox. The infection was contracted during a visit to Hull ; two individuals who had been a good deal with the first patient also became ill, they were re-vaccinated but in less than a week they were attacked with small-pox.

At the end of September a fresh infection was brought by a canal boatman from Hull, that same family on the boat conveyed the infection to Denaby, Mexbro', Swinton, and other districts westward, and four if not five

cases in Doncaster were due to that source. In October another canal boatman was taken ill on his boat at Doncaster. Two cases were notified in November, one due to infection from a case not reported in Wheatley. Eleven cases were notified but one was not a case of small-pox. Happily for Doncaster the new small-pox hospital at Balby was completed, and soon arrangements were made to receive patients. The first could not be removed, being too ill, but all the other cases were promptly removed to the hospital. The youngest patient was 13, another 16, six others were between 20 and 30 years of age, two were over 50 years. Four out of the 10 patients died, each having suffered from a severe form of the disease. Of the three cases who died in the hospital two had been vaccinated in one place only, the third had no mark but was said to have been vaccinated unsuccessfully, twice, when a child. Three of the six patients who recovered had one vaccination mark, two had two marks, and one four marks. None of the cases had been re-vaccinated unless one week before the illness began.

It is many years since four deaths were caused by small-pox in Doncaster, but we have been reminded that the disease occasionally recurs in as a bad type as ever, as it last year caused the deaths of 40 per cent. of those attacked. The expense of hospitals, &c., for such cases is considerable but the want of it might have been followed by a similar experience as occurred in Doncaster before. In 1872, 76 deaths were caused by small-pox in the first six months, and 8 deaths in the last three months of 1871. The lessons of every epidemic increases the belief that vaccination in childhood and re-vaccination when the age of 12 is reached are the only means of protection against an attack of small-pox. When the cases occurred in Doncaster every effort was

at once made to have every one who had visited the infected houses re-vaccinated and no case broke out among these, with the two exceptions I have already named after the first case ; further among the 15 persons who came into constant and close contact with the cases as doctors, nurses, caretakers at the hospital, visiting and disinfecting the houses, clothing, &c., no case of the disease occurred and our only security was re-vaccination. But this experience will not convince everyone and it is therefore necessary to have the next best means of preventing the disease ready, viz.: by hospitals and means of thoroughly disinfecting everything about the infected houses.

In October the Sanitary Committee considered and passed plans for an additional two wards at the small-pox hospital, the work is now nearly completed.

The following is a return of all the cases of **Cases of Infectious Diseases Treated in Hospitals.** Infectious Disease treated in Carr House and Balby Hospitals during 1899 :

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Small Pox.	Erysipelas.
Under treatment, 1st January, 1899.	8	—	—	—	—
Admitted during the year.	67	12	29	12	1
Died	0	3	1	3	—
Discharged cured	70	9	28	9	1
In the hospital 31st December.	5	—	—	—	—
The following cases were from Balby and Hex- thorpe District.	8	—	—	—	—
From the Rural Districts.	23	3	11	2	—

The following table shows the ages of the patients under treatment.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Small Pox.	Erysipelas.
Under 5 years	15	5	—	1	—
5 to 10     ,,	33	3	4	—	—
10 to 15   ,,	8	1	5	1	—
15 to 20   ,,	9	1	7	1	—
20 to 30   ,,	5	2	9	7	—
30 to 40   ,,	—	—	4	—	—
Over 40     ,,	—	—	—	2	1

Water Supply.

Throughout the whole of 1899 the inhabitants of Doncaster enjoyed an uninterrupted and ample supply of water ; the public analyst sent a satisfactory report upon samples submitted to him from the reservoirs in August.

Milk Supply.

Several members of the Sanitary Committee attended the lecture on Tuberculosis, delivered by Professor Woodhead, in Leeds, and 100 copies of the printed lecture were distributed specially among cow-keeper and milk sellers. The Committee also considered the new Regulations for Dairies and Cowshed issued by the Local Government Board, and after some alterations were suggested, the regulations were adopted and come into force on the 1st of March next.

Work at the Public Slaughter House.

The following is the list of animals slaughtered at the the public slaughter house in 1899 :

Beasts.	Sheep and Lambs.	Calves.	Pigs.
3,387	9,406	480	5,717

From among these it was found necessary to destroy, as being unfit for human food :

Beasts.	Sheep and Lambs.	Calves.	Pigs.
7	44	—	11



Forty-eight geese were seized in the market for the same reason and destroyed.

The work of scavenging the ashpits and the removal <sup>Sanitary Work</sup> house refuse was more thoroughly carried out last year, <sup>&c.</sup> and the pits cleansed more systematically and oftener. On inspection many of the closets and ashpits were found in an unsanitary state, likely to be injurious to health, 43 of these were altered to water closets ; 84 pits were roofed over and otherwise improved ; 103 yard and house drains were altered, and proper trapped earthenware gullies were provided instead of indifferent and broken iron traps.

The bake-houses are regularly inspected, and it is exceptional to find any serious defect ; in other workshops the attention of the occupier has occasionally to be drawn to the number of persons employed being in excess of the regulations laid down and also to other requirements for closet accommodation, &c.

A larger number of articles were last year disinfected after cases of infectious illness.

Seventeen samples of milk, lard, and bread were analysed last year by the public analyst, the results <sup>The Analysis</sup> showed that : <sup>of Foods.</sup>

Of 13 samples of milk :

Two were genuine and of superior quality

Four were genuine

Five were of fair quality

Two were of suspicious quality

Two samples of lard were genuine

Two samples of bread were free from alum and other objectionable additions.

The Sanitary Committee have decided that a larger number of samples of food, drugs, etc., shall be taken this year.

**Canal Boats.**

Eighty canal boats were inspected ; 12 notices were served because of some neglect of the regulations, and proceedings were taken in the worst case in which the defendant was fined 10/- and costs. Two boats were disinfected after cases of small-pox had occurred on board.

The details of the year's sanitary work are given in the next table prepared by Inspector Thompson.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

**J. MITCHELL WILSON.**

DONCASTER,

*13th February, 1900.*

## INSPECTOR'S TABLE.

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 NUISANCES ABATED, &c., DURING 1899.
 

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Inspections made ... ..	576
Written and Verbal Notices given ... ..	173
Ashpits Covered and Ventilated ... ..	84
House and Yard Drains Repaired or Trapped with Gullies ... ..	113
Ashpits, Privies, &c., Scavenged ... ..	11532
Dry Ashpits ,, ... ..	3710
Boxes ,, weekly ... ..	1000
Privies made into Water Closets... ..	43
Additional W.C.'s provided ... ..	9
Other Nuisances under The Public Health Act ...	112
Canal Boats Inspected ... ..	80
Notices for Breach of the Canal Boats Regulations ...	12
Common Lodging-houses on the Register ... ..	9
Bake-houses on the Register ... ..	16
Dairies and Milkshops on the Register ... ..	39

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 SAMPLES OF FOOD SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS, &c.
 

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	New Milk.	Lard.	Bread.
Samples ... ..	13	2	2
Results :			
Superior Quality...	2	—	—
Genuine ,, ...	4	2	2
Fair ,, ...	5	—	—
Suspicious ,, ...	2	—	—

One person was summoned before the magistrates and fined with costs for offences against the Canal Boat Regulations.

JOHN THOMPSON,  
INSPECTOR.

BEDDING, &c., DISINFECTED BY STEAM AT THE  
PUBLIC DISINFECTING APPARATUS, 1899.

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Beds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Mattresses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Pillows and Bolsters		...	...	...	...	...	...	349
Pairs Blankets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
Pairs Sheets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51½
Counterpanes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Articles of Clothing		...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Sundry Articles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	410
								<hr style="width: 10%;"/>
		Total	...	...	...	...	...	1451½
Houses or Rooms Disinfected			...	...	...	...	...	119
Canal Boats		„	...	...	...	...	...	2



**TABLE I.**

SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES IN THE BOROUGH, AND IN EACH WARD, DURING 1899,  
COMPARSED WITH THE RETURNS FOR THE WHOLE OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Population in 1899.	Rate per 1000 of the Population.					Deaths in Children under one year per 1000 Births.
		Birth.	Deaths.	From Zymotic Diseases.	From Phthisis.	From other Respiratory Diseases.	
BOROUGH ...	30500	26·8	16·5	1·6	1·0	1·7	194
CENTRAL ...	5410	22·8	17·9	1·3	1·3	2·6	211
EAST ...	4100	20·0	13·9	0·9	0·4	1·4	148
NORTH ...	5110	32·0	20·3	2·1	1·3	2·0	237
SOUTH ...	5600	30·3	14·5	2·0	0·7	1·2	200
ST. GEORGE'S ...	4220	33·4	19·4	1·9	0·7	0·9	163
WEST ...	6060	23·0	13·2	1·4	0·8	1·6	157
ENGLAND & WALES	...	29·3	17·1	1·7	...	...	163

**TABLE II.**

DEATHS FROM THE PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES  
DURING 1899 AND THE FIVE PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894
Small-pox ...	4	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	8	21	5	0	22	10
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	5	11	10	7
Enteric and Continued Fevers..	3	6	1	5	3	6
Puerperal Fever .	2	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhœa and Dysentery ...	24	26	35	3	38	9
Whooping Cough	1	11	3	14	2	16
Diphtheria ...	1	2	6	11	2	1
Membranous Croup ...	1	1	2	2	3	3
Cholera ...	4	1	1	0	0	0
Total for each year	49	69	58	46	80	52

**TABLE III.**

SUMMARY OF THE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES IN DONCASTER  
DURING THE TEN YEARS—1889 TO 1898.

Year.	Rates per 1000 of the Population.					Deaths among Children under one year per 1000 Births registered.
	Births.	Deaths.	From Zymotic Diseases.	From Phthisis.	From other Respira- tory. Diseases.	
1889	31·4	17·0	2·3	1·4	2·4	179
1890	29·5	19·9	2·3	1·3	3·5	183
1891	32·0	19·0	2·2	1·0	4·5	168
1892	32·0	17·6	2·7	1·2	3·1	150
1893	33·3	21·0	3·0	1·3	3·3	188
1894	32·0	17·4	1·8	1·2	2·9	154
1895	33·7	20·0	2·3	1·4	3·1	181
1896	30·6	16·7	1·6	0·9	2·9	139
1897	27·5	15·3	1·9	1·7	2·7	165
1898	29·7	17·8	2·3	1·3	2·3	205

**TABLE IV.**

DEATHS FROM SEVERAL GROUPS OF DISEASES IN THE  
BOROUGH IN 1899.

	Total.	Deaths per 1000 of the Population	Proportion of Deaths in every 1000 from all causes.
From :			
1.—Zymotic Diseases ...	48	1·5	95
2.—Pulmonary Diseases (other than Phthisis)	59	1·9	117
3.—Tubercular Diseases ..	49	1·6	96
4.—Wasting Diseases of Infants ... ..	55	1·8	109
5.—Convulsive Diseases of Infants ... ..	24	0·8	47

1.—Includes Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Enteric or Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, and Diarrhœa.

2.—Includes Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, and Asthma.

3.—Includes Phthisis, Scrofula, Tabes Mesenterica.

4.—Includes Marasmus, Atrophy, Debility, and Premature Brth.

5.—Includes Hydrocephalus, Menengitis, Convulsions, and Teething.



TABLE B.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DURING THE YEAR 1899, IN THE DONCASTER URBAN DISTRICT; CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

Names of Local- ites adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institu- tions being shown as separate local- ities.	Last Census.	Estimated Population to the Middle of 1899.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										Number of such cases removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospitals.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
					Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal	Cholera.	Erysipelas																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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“ Notification of Infectious Diseases ” is compulsory in this District since 17th March, 1893.  
The name of the Isolation Hospitals, used by the sick of the District is Carr House Hospital and Balby Hospital.





